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16 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senator Eastland re the Rodino Bill

1. As a follow-up to a previous conversation with Senator James Eastland (D., Miss.), I called on the Senator to further discuss the Rodino bill. I pointed out to the Senator that Secretary Rusk is now in favor of continuing the two Radios. Senator Eastland indicated that he had information, from the second echelon in the State Department, that the Secretary was opposed to continuation of the Radios. I noted that I doubted whether anyone at this level would have accurate information on the subject as it was my understanding that the discussions taking place were at one level below the White House. The Senator accepted this.

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3. With regard to the problem of funding, Eastland was categorical in his view that this presents no problem whatsoever and that they should continue to be funded as they have in the past. He thought it would be absurd to openly acknowledge U.S. funding. Eastland said he is planning to obtain the unanimous consent of the members of the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security to forward a letter to the President stating these views. He also said that in his view if the Radios were closed 90 percent of the Senate would be up in arms.


Assistant Legislative Counsel

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